

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, May 19, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 19, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know, O God, how we strive to gain influence and extend our ideas and we know too that Your word calls us to see the needs of others. We admit that excessive pride demands victory in all things but Your word calls us to do justice and speak the truth. We acknowledge that we can see more clearly the evil in another person but can miss the selfishness in our own hearts. O gracious God, our creator and our guide, we pray Your spirit will lead us in the way of justice and reconciliation and with a greater understanding may we walk faithfully along the road of peace. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, an-

nounced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4. An act to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 39. An act to provide a national medal for public safety officers who act with extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 95-521, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints Patricia Mack Bryan, of Virginia, as Senate Legal Counsel, effective as of June 1, 1999, for a term of service to expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventh Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-341, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, announces the appointment of the following individuals to the Women's Progress Commemoration Commission:

Joan Doran Hedrick, of Connecticut; Lisa Perry, of New York; and Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, of South Dakota.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes per side.

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, Lincoln once said, "United we stand, divided we fall." Well, that old adage is quite appropriate to the Kosovo crisis, and I am sure Mr. Milosevic understands it very well.

Just take a look at NATO. The British are calling for ground troops and a summer invasion of Yugoslavia; while the Germans, the Finns, and the Italians are openly opposed to ground troops and are engaged in a hectic peacekeeping effort calling for a pause in the NATO bombing.

Meanwhile, the European Union leaders met with Russian delegates with very little progress, and no signs of any agreement on how to proceed.

Now, on the other hand, the Clinton administration may or may not be opposed to ground troops. It certainly does not support a bombing pause. Now, is anyone else confused?

Mr. Speaker, one week ago 11 Members of Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, tried to provide the administration with a simple framework for peace in Kosovo, in complete cooperation with the Russian Duma. The administration, however, came out whining about freelance diplomacy, but sadly they have completely missed the point.

Our bipartisan effort is simply an attempt to get the Clinton administration and the rest of NATO singing off the same sheet of music, and to bring solidarity, consensus, and a peaceful conclusion to this confusing crisis.

EVERY DIPLOMATIC OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE PURSUED TO END WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, there is a drumbeat in Washington this morning, as there has been a drumbeat in London, where troops are being advocated to be sent to Kosovo and into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for purposes of winding up this war.

I think it is an important moment to reflect, as British officials are visiting this country today, as to whether or not it is in the best interest of our country to not just be talking about ground troops but to even have the thought of an expanded war in which the lives of our young people, of our sons and daughters, would be put at risk.

I say that instead of talking about the possibility of an expanded war, we should begin aggressively to pursue peace. We should look for every diplomatic opportunity to bring an end to this war, to stop the conflict, to stop the bombing, to begin the withdrawal of the Serbian troops, to stop the military activities of the KLA, to begin the repatriation of the refugees, to give them a chance to go home.

This has to be done diplomatically with international armed peacekeeping troops. We cannot win this war militarily. We have to bring an end to it diplomatically.